representatives of non-Socialist parties, all close to the Cadets. Miliukov was dropped from the list.

On May 18 the Coalition Government published its program. The same day the Soviet convened to hear the report of the Executive Committee. The new Socialist Cabinet members were greeted enthusiastically. By an overwhelming majority the Soviet passed a resolution of *unconditional* confidence and active support of the new government. This vote was accompanied by a resolution whereby the Soviet confirmed its control over its own representatives in the government, on the principle used by political parties under a parliamentary system in Europe to exercise control over their representatives in the Cabinet.

The Tauride Palace was flooded with telegrams expressing the devotion of workers and soldiers to the Petrograd Soviet and the new government. On May 22 the All-Russian conference of Menshevist organizations opened in Petrograd and voted approval of Socialist participation in the coalition.

These were days of cautious optimism in the Tauride Palace. Things seemed to be moving in the direction of consolidation of the new order and greater unity of liberal forces.

The Communists were surprised by the people's response to the formation of the new Cabinet, but Lenin soon discovered the weak point in our new position: The masses expected too much of the Coalition and were bound to be disillusioned. On May 24, a week after the new Cabinet had taken office, Lenin wrote in *Pravda*: "The Coalition has been in power for eight days. What has it brought to the people? The war goes on. The landowners still hold their land, the capitalists continue to exploit the workers, prices are high, there is a shortage of bread and sugar in the cities. The Coalition Government has done nothing. The Coalition has proved to be a fraud. . . ." This was clever propaganda. The new government had not promised miracles, but the people expected them.

As time went on the popular mood began to change. By the end of May little remained of the enthusiasm with which the people had greeted the Coalition Government.

Now the stage was set for further events. The Bolsheviks would lie low, awaiting signs of rising restlessness in the masses and meanwhile fomenting trouble, undermining morale in the army, inciting workers against their representatives in the Soviet. The rightist groups in the government would do their best to paralyze the promised reforms and postpone elections to the Constituent Assembly, hoping that sooner or later the masses of the people would turn toward them as the party of order. The majority in the Soviet and their representatives in the government, absorbed in everyday troubles, would have